

**Written Testimony of Ross B. Kristal, MD in SUPPORT for HB 7174, An Act
Concerning Prescription Drugs**

My name is Ross Kristal, and I live in New Haven, CT. I am a board certified internal medicine physician, who practices as a primary care physician as well as a physician who cares for people admitted to the hospital. I am the Chief Medical Resident for the Yale Primary Care Residency Program and a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine. I am writing **in support of HB 7174**.

Far too often, I've seen firsthand the consequences of unfair prescription drug pricing. For example, I cared for a truck driver, who was admitted to the hospital for a COPD exacerbation. Her breathing was so bad that at one point she had to be treated in the intensive care unit. Understandably, she was nervous about eventually leaving the hospital, but we had a good discharge plan in place, including the use of different inhaler medications. Days later she was admitted again to the hospital for the same reason because she could not afford to purchase the inhalers. People in this state should not have to pay inordinate amounts of money to simply breath.

Unfortunately, this is not a unique story. A survey of CT residents, conducted by Altarum Healthcare Value Hub in 2018, found that 1 in 5 reported that they did not take their prescription medications as prescribed because of their concern about cost, and 1 in 5 reported they find it difficult or extremely difficult to afford their medications.

I applaud the Committee for focusing on this critical issue and urge the Committee to act favorably on HB 7174.